

CLAIMS

1. A method for installing an operating system on a computer, the method comprising:
- generating an external configuration file containing information about a plurality of devices that might be associated with the computer;
- identifying a particular device associated with the computer, the particular device being one of the plurality of devices;
- installing a driver on the computer according to the information stored in the external configuration file and the particular device's identity; and
- installing the operating system according to information stored in the external configuration file and the particular device's identity.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising installing applications after the driver and the operating system are installed.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining one installation procedure from among a plurality of options.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the particular device is identified dynamically.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the dynamic identification is at least one of automated and user-driven.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the particular device is at least one of an ISA, PCI, SCSI, and an IDE device.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the particular device is at least one of a display device, a sound device, a modem, and a controller.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein installing the operating system includes patching errors in an OS configuration file with information in the configuration file.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the driver and the operating system are installed contemporaneously.

10. A program storage medium encoded with instructions that, when executed by a computer, perform a method for installing an operating system on a computer, the method comprising:

generating an external configuration file containing information about a plurality

of devices that might be associated with the computer;

identifying a particular device associated with the computer, the particular device

being one of the plurality of devices;

installing a driver on the computer according to the information stored in the

external configuration file and the particular device's identity; and

installing the operating system according to information stored in the external

configuration file and the particular device's identity.

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11. The program storage medium of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises installing applications after the driver and the operating system are installed.
12. The program storage medium of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises determining one installation procedure from among a plurality of options.
13. The program storage medium of claim 10, wherein the particular device is identified dynamically.
14. The program storage medium of claim 13, wherein the dynamic identification in the method is at least one of automated and user-driven.
15. The program storage medium of claim 10, wherein the particular device is at least one of an ISA, PCI, SCSI, and an IDE device.
16. The program storage medium of claim 10, wherein the particular device is at least one of a display device, a sound device, a modem, and a controller.
17. The program storage medium of claim 10, wherein the act of installing the operating system in the method includes patching errors in an OS configuration file with information in the configuration file.
18. The program storage medium of claim 10, wherein the method installs the driver and the operating system contemporaneously.
19. A computer programmed to perform a method for installing an operating system thereon, the method comprising:

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generating an external configuration file containing information about a plurality
of devices that might be associated with the computer;

5 identifying a particular device associated with the computer, the particular device
being one of the plurality of devices;

installing a driver on the computer according to the information stored in the
external configuration file and the particular device's identity; and

10 installing the operating system according to information stored in the external
configuration file and the particular device's identity.

20. The computer of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises
installing applications after the driver and the operating system are installed.

21. The computer of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises
determining one installation procedure from among a plurality of options.

22. The computer of claim 19, wherein the particular device is identified
dynamically.

23. The computer of claim 22, wherein the dynamic identification in the
method is at least one of automated and user-driven.

24. The computer of claim 19, wherein the particular device is at least one of
an ISA, PCI, SCSI, and an IDE device.

25. The computer of claim 19, wherein the particular device is at least one of a
display device, a sound device, a modem, and a controller.

26. The computer of claim 19, wherein the act of installing the operating system in the method includes patching errors in an OS configuration file with information in the configuration file.

27. The computer of claim 19, wherein the method installs the driver and the operating system contemporaneously.

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